



DAVE MURPHY

State Representative • 56th Assembly District

State Capitol Office:
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953
(608) 266-7500
(888) 534-0056 *toll-free in Wisconsin*

56th Assembly District:
1777 Ivy Lane
Greenville, WI 54942
(920) 378-1424

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Dave Murphy: 608-266-7500

Rep. Murphy Statement Regarding UW-Madison's Call to Review Admissions Policy on Student Criminal History

(Madison)... Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville), Chair of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, released the following statement in response to UW-Madison's call to review admissions policies to allow consideration of a student's criminal history:

"I strongly condemn anyone who commits or advocates for violence against a group of people because of their skin color, profession, political beliefs, religion, orientation or any other identity."

"I ask the UW to exercise caution if it chooses to change its policy to allow consideration of criminal history as part of the admissions process. If we truly believe education is the key to changing peoples' hearts and minds, then we need to strongly consider if it is appropriate to deny individuals who have paid their debt to society an opportunity to become a productive citizen again."

"I do not agree with certain viewpoints expressed by the student in question, but as long as a member of the university community follows university policy and does not commit or advocate for violence, then I ask the UW to fairly apply its standards of academic freedom to protect students' free speech that some might find objectionable."

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